



## DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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### **DEQ continues regulatory oversight after series of hurricanes**

BATON ROUGE – Cleanup continues after a busy hurricane season in 2008. According to field reports received from debris sites throughout south Louisiana, it is estimated that approximately 2 million cubic yards of debris that's already been removed from roadways and curbsides still remains to be processed.

This number is expected to increase as several parishes are projected to begin retrieving debris generated by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike from private property and from waterways.

Because of this, DEQ staff will continue to conduct assessments of all open debris sites that are handling hurricane-related debris throughout south Louisiana.

DEQ will also have regulatory oversight over the debris disposal resulting from demolitions that will be conducted in response to the hurricanes. Cameron Parish is the first parish to receive FEMA approval to begin demolitions that will be conducted throughout the impacted area.

The department continues to provide regulatory oversight of FEMA-funded demolitions and debris disposal related to Hurricane Katrina. These demolitions are occurring in Jefferson, Orleans, Plaquemines, St. Bernard and St. Tammany parishes. DEQ is also providing daily oversight at construction and demolition landfills that are receiving debris from these demolitions.

Louisiana Road Home and Louisiana Land Trust demolitions will begin in April. These demolitions will be conducted across south Louisiana, but primarily in the southeast region of the state. DEQ will provide regulatory oversight over the debris disposal.